



News

from Congressman

PETE KING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REP. KING TO ENSURE WOMEN TIMELY ACCESS TO MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENINGS

Introduces the Assure Access To Mammography Act

In response to a growing fiscal crisis among mammography centers across the nation, Congressman Peter King (R-Seaford) will introduce this Tuesday, April 3rd, the **Assure Access to Mammography Act**.

Rep. King stated "Breast cancer is a dreaded disease which has a particularly high rate of incidence on Long Island. Virtually every family has a relative, friend or neighbor who has been afflicted with breast cancer". King added "It is inexcusable that some women must wait as long as 6 months for a lifesaving mammogram, especially when early detection is their best hope for survival."

This year, an estimated 192,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Mammograms can detect about 90% of all breast cancers and are responsible for helping to reduce the U.S. breast cancer mortality rate. Screening mammographies often cost between \$75 and \$150.

Congressman King stated "Because Medicare's reimbursement rate is set below the average cost for a mammogram, many private mammography centers are scaling back service or closing their doors and creating a shortage of providers. My legislation will preserve access to this lifesaving screening."

The **Assure Access To Mammography Act** will:

- Increase Medicare reimbursements to radiologists (\$90 up from \$67)
- Increase the number of radiologists - by increasing the graduate medical education (GME) funding in order to provide for 3 additional radiologists in each teaching hospital.
- Provide a GAO report on the Medicare reimbursement structure to gender specific medical procedures.